

Disproportionate Minority Contact

A Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, Department of Public Safety supported project conducted in close collaboration with Missouri Juvenile Justice Association and communities across Missouri.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) 2013 Data Analysis for Boone County

July 2014

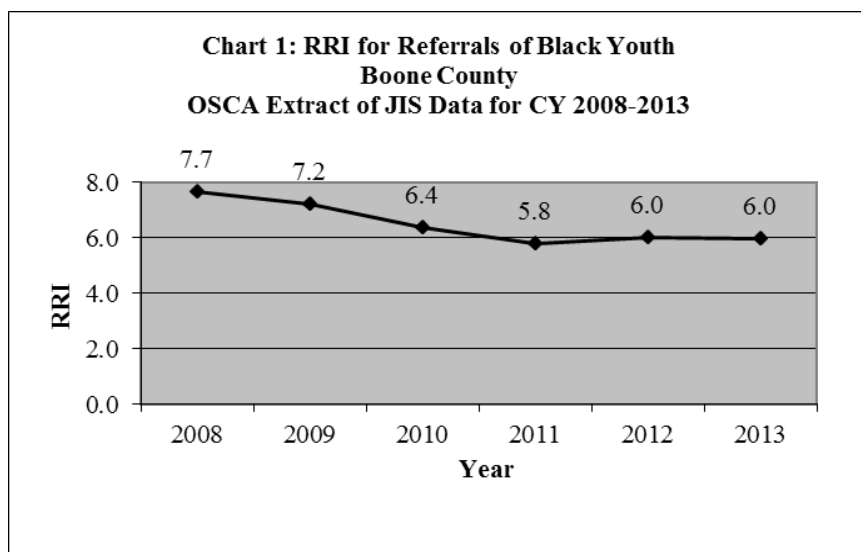
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In 2009, a statewide effort to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) began when research staff in the Office of State Courts Administrator partnered with staff in the Department of Public Safety, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

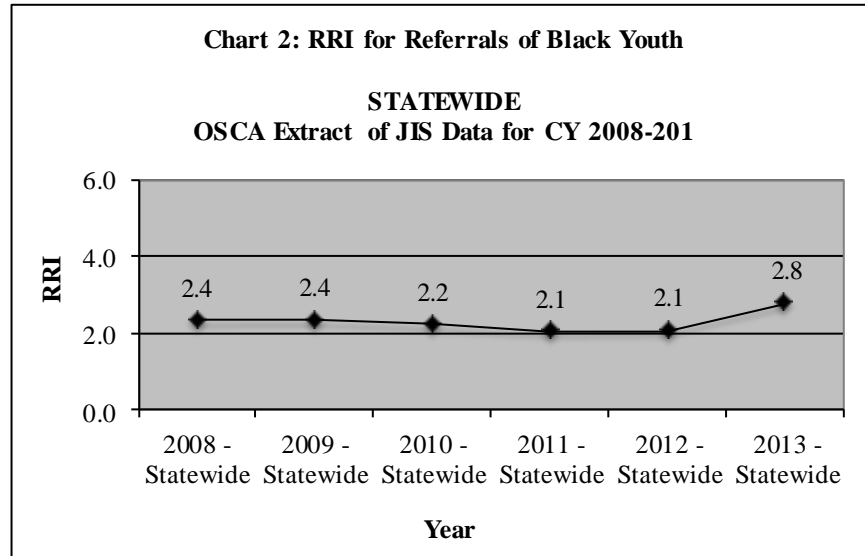
DMC is one of four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. All states are required to make efforts to reduce DMC, which occurs whenever the overall volume of activity for minority youth at various juvenile justice contact points is disproportionately larger than the volume of activity for white youth at those points (Feyerherm, 2011; Feyerherm, Snyder, & Villarruel, 2009). It is important to examine *all* contact points due to the likelihood that minority youth will penetrate deeper into the juvenile justice system as a result of DMC (Hsia, 2009).

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) measures over- or under-representation of minorities at various contact points in the juvenile justice system by dividing the rate of activity for minority youth by the rate of activity for majority youth at each contact point (Feyerherm, Snyder, & Villarruel, 2009). The RRI is an indicator of the existence of disproportionality and its extent, but it does not tell us *why* disproportionality occurs (Coleman, 2011).

- For the calendar year, the RRI is calculated for each court contact point for each county in Missouri for youth ages 10-16 using U.S. Census data and the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) delinquency (status and law) data in the Judicial Information System (JIS). Child abuse and neglect cases were excluded from the analysis.
- The RRI for Referrals for Boone County (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Chart 1)



- The Boone County RRI for referrals for Black youth was 7.7 in 2008. This means that Black youth were almost eight times more likely than White youth to be referred to the juvenile justice system in that year.
- The Boone County RRI for referrals for Black youth was 7.2 in 2009, 6.4 in 2010, 5.8 in 2011, and 6.0 in 2012.
- The Boone County RRI for referrals for Black youth was 6.0 in 2013. Therefore, Black youth were six times more likely to be referred in that year.
- **The trend for the referral RRI for Black youth was increasing, but it has been stable since last year.**



- For reference, the statewide RRI for referrals for Black youth was 2.4 in 2008 and 2009, 2.2 in 2010, 2.1 in 2011 and 2012, and 2.8 in 2013. (See Chart 2)
- Therefore, the Boone County RRI for referrals for Black youth was higher than the statewide average in 2013.
- Table 1 reports the number of cases for each court contact point by race in Boone County.

Table 1: Number of Cases by Court Contact Points and Race/Ethnicity in CY 2013

State: Missouri
County: Boone
ALL OFFENSES

Reporting Period 1/1/2013
through 12/31/2013

	Total Youth	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/Mixed	All Minorities
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 16)	12,873	9,680	2,003	572	553	0	65	0	3,193
2. Juvenile Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	1,325	578	718	11	18	0	0	0	747
4. Cases Diverted	858	425	418	6	9	0	0	0	433
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	128	35	90	0	3	0	0	0	93
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	466	153	299	5	9	0	0	0	313
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	423	139	272	4	8	0	0	0	284
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	399	132	255	4	8	0	0	0	267
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group meets 1% rule for group to be assessed?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	

- In Table 2, the statistically significant RRIs for all contact points are presented in **bold font**.
- Disproportionality for Black youth exists at the referral, diversion, secure detention, and cases petitioned court contact points.
- However, the remainder of this report focuses on the referral court contact point, because this is the most common point of over-representation.

Table 2: Relative Rate Index Compared with White Youth in CY 2013

State: Missouri
County: Boone

Reporting Period 1/1/2013
through 12/31/2013

	Black or African- American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/ Mixed	All Minorities
2. Juvenile Arrests	**	**	**	*	*	*	**
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	6.00	0.32	0.55	*	*	*	3.92
4. Cases Diverted	0.79	**	**	*	*	*	0.79
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	2.07	**	**	*	*	*	2.06
6. Cases Petitioned	1.57	**	**	*	*	*	1.58
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	1.00	**	**	*	*	*	1.00
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	0.99	**	**	*	*	*	0.99
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	**	**	**	*	*	*	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	**	**	**	*	*	*	**
Group meets 1% threshold?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	

Key:

Statistically significant results:

Results that are not statistically significant:

Group is less than 1% of the youth population:

Insufficient number of cases for analysis:

Missing data for some element of calculation:

Bold font

Regular font

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2. OJJDP's Parity/Equity Tool

- OJJDP's parity tool uses the rate of involvement with the juvenile justice system for White youth and calculates how many fewer referrals (by race) would be needed to reach parity/equity between minority youth and White youth.
- The number of **law violations and status offenses** for parity/equity for Boone County is 598. In other words, to reach parity, there would need to be a reduction in the number of referrals for Black youth by 598 out of 718 cases. That is an 83% reduction in the referrals for Black youth.

3. The Number of Cases versus the Number of Youth by Race (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 3)

- OJJDP recommends analyzing the data based on the number of *cases* rather than the number of *youth*, because it gives a more accurate picture of how much "contact" youth have with the juvenile justice system.
- However, sometimes it is useful to know how many *youth* are involved.
- In 2013 in Boone County, 736 youth were involved with the juvenile justice system for a total of 1,325 cases.
- White youth made up 75% of the youth ages 10-16 in Boone County, but 368 youth or 49% of the youth referred were White. 358 youth or 48% of the youth referred were Black. Because Blacks only make up 16% of the youth ages 10-16 in Boone County, they are *over-represented* in the juvenile justice system.

**Table 3: Number of Cases by Number of Youth and Race
Boone County**

OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

Number of Cases	White		Black		Other		Total Youth	% of Total Youth	Total Cases	% of Total Cases
	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%				
1 case	273	75%	214	60%	7	50%	494	67%	494	37%
2 cases	54	15%	67	19%	4	29%	125	17%	250	19%
3 cases	13	4%	34	9%	1	7%	48	7%	144	11%
4 cases	6	2%	13	4%	0	0%	19	3%	76	6%
5 cases	5	1%	12	3%	1	7%	18	2%	90	7%
More than 5 cases	13	4%	18	5%	1	7%	32	4%	271	20%
Total	364	100%	358	100%	14	100%	736	100%	1,325	100%

4. Previous Referrals (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 4)

- The number of previous referrals a youth has received tells us whether or not the same youth is being referred multiple times.
- Boone County had a lower percentage of youth with 1, 2, and 3 referrals when compared to statewide totals, and the county the same percentage of youth with 4 and 5 referrals when compared to the statewide totals.
- Boone County had a higher percentage of youth with more than five referrals compared to the statewide total.
- In addition, however, note that Black youth had a higher rate of more than 5 referrals when compared to White youth.

**Table 4: Number of Prior Referrals (All Years) by Race
Boone County**

OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

Referral Number	White		Black		Other		Total Cases	% of Total Cases	Statewide Total	% of Total Statewide Cases
	Cases	%	Cases	%	Cases	%				
1st Referral (01)	193	33%	123	17%	5	17%	321	24%	13,416	38%
2nd Referral (02)	90	16%	83	12%	4	14%	177	13%	6,343	18%
3rd Referral (03)	63	11%	64	9%	5	17%	132	10%	3,909	11%
4th Referral (04)	38	7%	58	8%	5	17%	101	8%	2,709	8%
5th Referral (05)	29	5%	45	6%	4	14%	78	6%	1,930	6%
More than 5 Referrals (05+)	165	29%	345	48%	6	21%	516	39%	6,714	19%
Total	578	100%	718	100%	29	100%	1,325	100%	35,021	100%

5. Law Offenses (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 5)

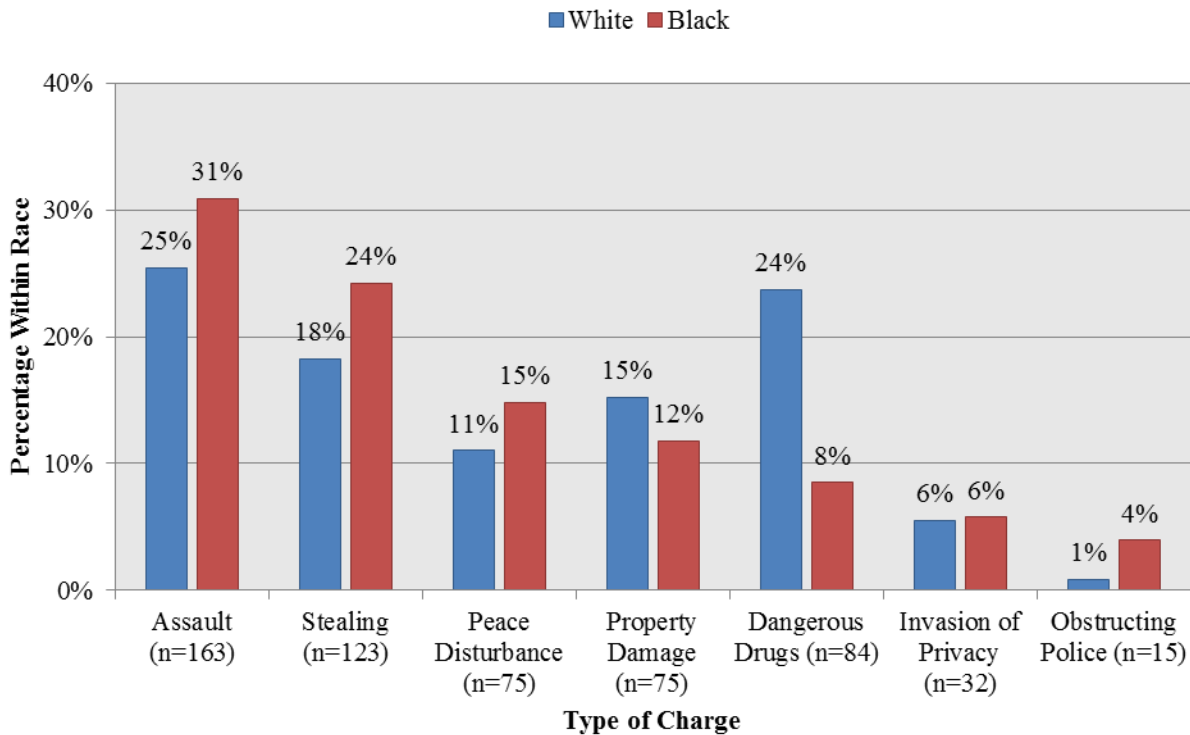
- In order to develop policies to address the disproportionality of minority youth in the juvenile justice system, one must look at the specific offenses associated with referrals.
- If race were not a factor, we would expect to see the “% within race” column in Table 5 to be similar for both White youth and Black youth. Because they are not, this indicates disproportionality between White youth and Black youth.
- Please note that Table 5 only includes the top 7 law offenses (88% of the total law violation cases in the county).

Table 5: Top 7 Law Violations by Race
Boone County
OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

Law Offense Type	White			Black			Other			Total	
	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Across Race
			75% of pop.			16% of pop.			10% of pop.		
Assault	60	25%	36%	102	31%	62%	3	38%	2%	165	100%
Stealing	43	18%	34%	80	24%	63%	3	38%	2%	126	100%
Peace Disturbance	26	11%	34%	49	15%	64%	1	13%	1%	76	100%
Property Damage	36	15%	48%	39	12%	52%	0	0%	0%	75	100%
Dangerous Drugs	56	24%	66%	28	8%	33%	1	13%	1%	85	100%
Invasion of Privacy	13	6%	41%	19	6%	59%	0	0%	0%	32	100%
Obstructing Police	2	1%	13%	13	4%	87%	0	0%	0%	15	100%
Total	236	100%		330	100%		8	100%		574	

- The “% across race” column gives an indication of disproportionality between White youth and Black youth in the rates at which members of the two groups are referred for specific offenses. If all other factors were equal and if race were not the basis of difference between groups, we would expect to see rates of offenses for each group that were similar to group representation in the youth population. For example, based on the population data of Boone County, one would expect Blacks to make up 16% of the “assault” offenses instead of 62%, 16% of the “stealing” offenses instead of 63%, 16% of the “property damage” offenses instead of 64%, etc.
- While this is an indication of disproportionality in referrals for different offenses, this does not tell us *why* there is over-representation for Black youth in these offenses. However, this does suggest that it could be useful to look more closely at why Black youth are referred for these offenses if one wishes to reduce the disproportionality in court involvement for Black youth.

Chart 3: Top 7 Law Violations by Race
Boone County
OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013



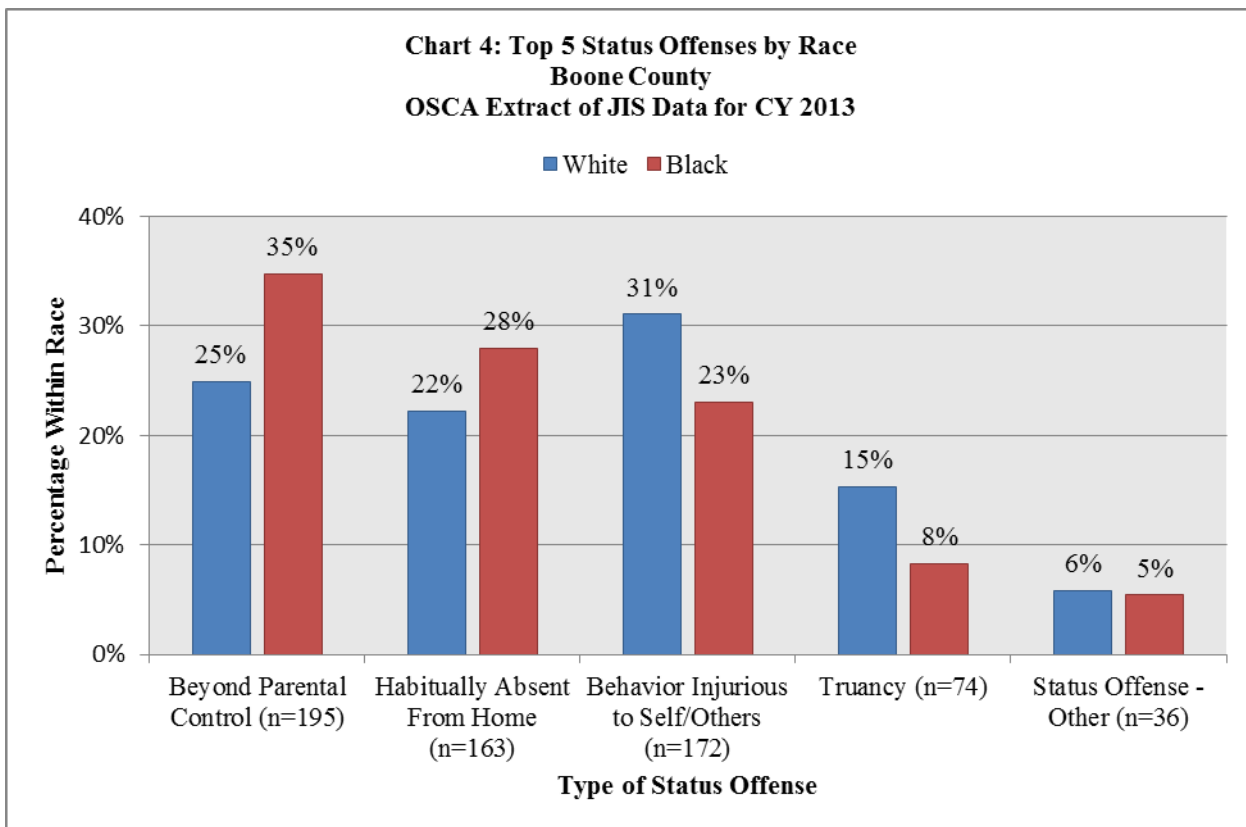
6. Status Offenses (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 6)

- If race were not a factor, we would expect to see the “% within race” column in Table 6 to be similar for both White youth and Black youth. Because they are not, this indicates disproportionality between White youth and Black youth.

Table 6: Status Offenses by Race
Boone County
OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

Offense Type	White			Black			Other			Total	
	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Across Race
		75% of pop.			16% of pop.			10% of pop.			
Beyond Parental Control	73	25%	36%	122	35%	61%	6	35%	3%	201	100%
Habitually Absent From Home	65	22%	39%	98	28%	59%	3	18%	2%	166	100%
Behavior Injurious to Self/Others	91	31%	52%	81	23%	46%	4	24%	2%	176	100%
Truancy	45	15%	59%	29	8%	38%	2	12%	3%	76	100%
Status Offense - Other	17	6%	45%	19	5%	50%	2	12%	5%	38	100%
Muni - Possession/Discharge Arms	0	0%	0%	1	0%	100%	0	0%	0%	1	100%
Muni - Solicit Without Permission	0	0%	0%	1	0%	100%	0	0%	0%	1	100%
Muni - Curfew	2	1%	100%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	2	100%
Total	293	100%		351	100%		17	100%		661	

- The “% across race” column gives an indication of disproportionality between White youth and Black youth in the rates at which members of the two groups are referred for specific offenses. If all other factors were equal and if race were not the basis of difference between groups, we would expect to see rates of offenses for each group that were similar to group representation in the youth population. For example, based on the population data of Boone County, one would expect Black youth to make up 16% of the “beyond parental control” offenses instead of 61%, 16% of the “habitually absent from home” offenses instead of 59%, 16% of the “behaviorally injurious” offenses instead of 46%, etc.
- While this is an indication of disproportionality in referrals for different offenses, this does not tell us *why* there is over-representation of Black youth in referrals for these offenses. However, this does suggest that, if one wishes to reduce the disproportionality in court involvement for Black youth, it could be useful to look more closely at why Black youth are referred for these offenses.



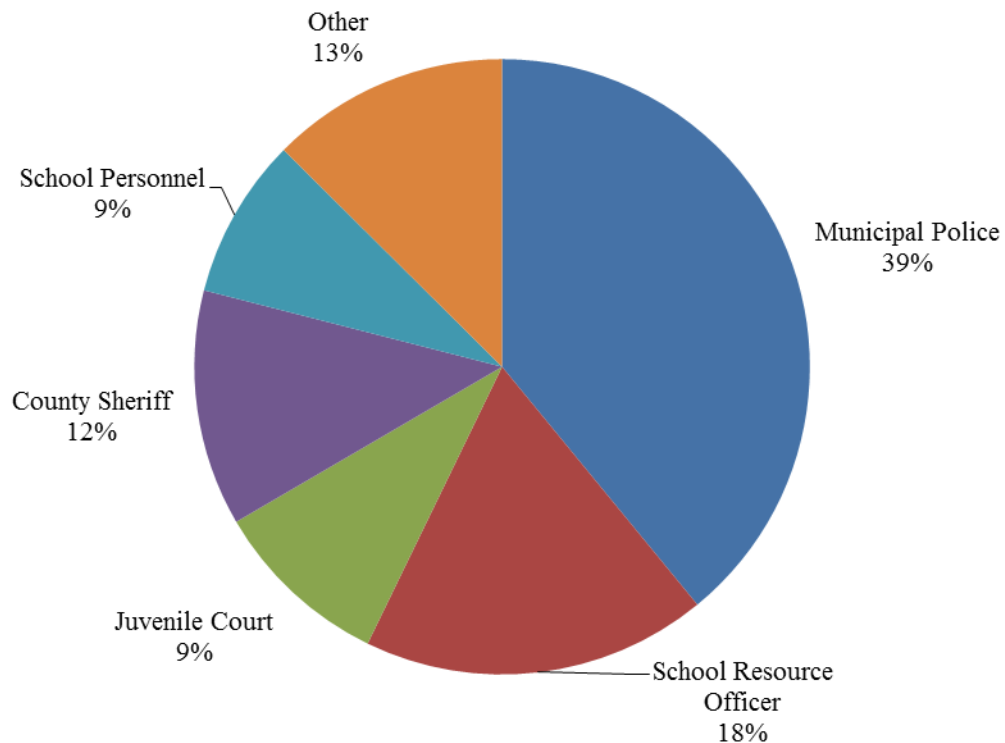
7. Source of Referrals (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 7)

- The largest source of referrals was municipal police (39%).

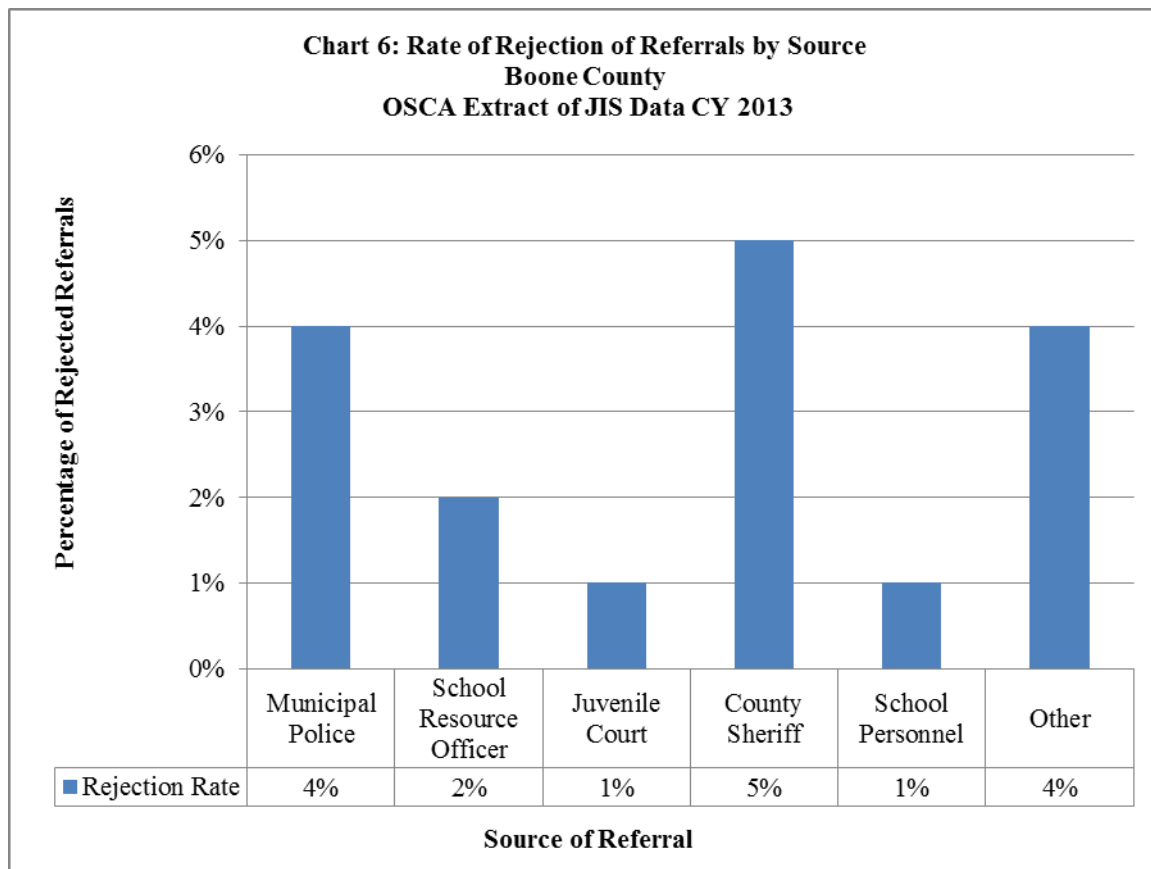
Table 7: Source of Referral
Boone County
OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

Referral Source	White			Black			Other			Total Count	% of Total Cases	Rejection Rate
	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race	Count	% Within Race	% Across Race			
			75% of pop.			16% of pop.			10% of pop.			
Municipal Police	191	33%	36%	329	46%	62%	12	41%	2%	532	39%	4%
School Resource Officer	99	17%	40%	145	20%	59%	3	10%	1%	247	18%	2%
Juvenile Court	45	8%	35%	78	11%	61%	5	17%	4%	128	9%	1%
County Sheriff	98	17%	58%	66	9%	39%	5	17%	3%	169	12%	5%
School Personnel	58	10%	50%	55	8%	48%	2	7%	2%	115	8%	1%
Other	87	15%	51%	45	6%	26%	2	7%	1%	171	13%	4%
Total	578	100%		718	100%		29	100%		1,362	100%	

Chart 5: Source of Referrals
Boone County
OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013

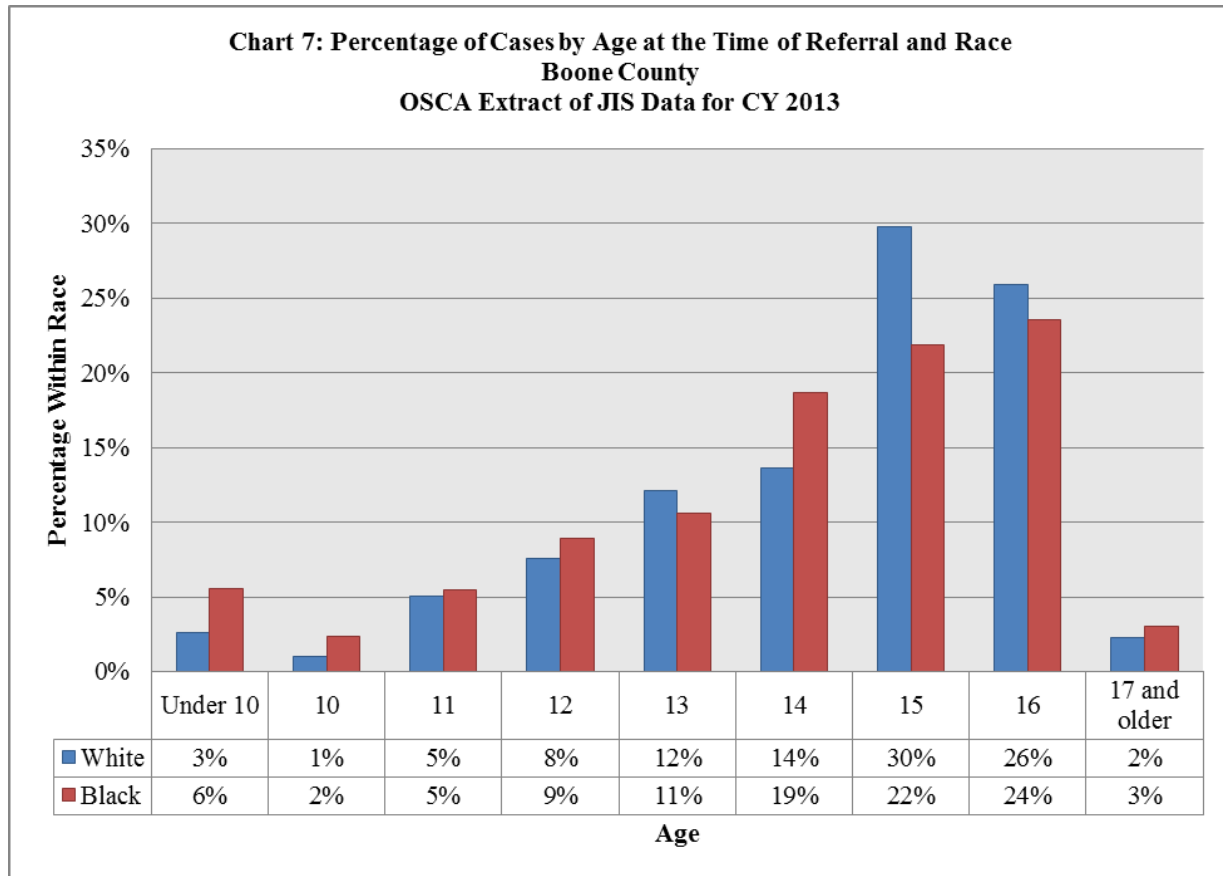


- The top three types of law violations for municipal police referrals in Boone County were the following: stealing (30%, n=95), assault (18%, n=57), and dangerous drugs (12%, n=37).
 - The top two types of status offenses for municipal police referrals were: habitually absent (53%, n=120) and behavior injurious to self and other (23%, n=52).
 - The top type of law violation for SRO referrals in Boone County was the following: stealing (100%, n=1).
 - The top three types of status offenses for SRO referrals were: truancy (54%, n=62), beyond parental control (25%, n=28), and behavior injurious to self and other (21%, n=24).
 - The top three types of law violations for school personnel referrals were: assault (32%, n=64), peace disturbance (27%, n=45), and dangerous drugs (17%, n=34).
 - The top three types of status offenses for school personnel referrals were behavior injurious (45%, n=21), beyond parental control (19%, n=9), and status offense - other (17%, n=8)
8. **Rejected Referrals** (Based on OSCA extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Table 7 and Chart 5)
- In Boone County, 3% of referrals were rejected (43% of rejected referrals were for White referrals and 55% of rejected referrals were for Black referrals). The statewide rate of rejections of referrals was 14%.
 - The rejection rate for referrals from Municipal Police was 4%, the rejection rate for referrals from School Resource Officer was 2%, the rejection rate for referrals from Juvenile Court was 1%, and the rejection rate for referrals for County Sheriff was 5%, while the rejection rate for referrals from School Personnel was 1%. (See Table 7)



9. Age (Based on OSCA Extract of JIS Data for CY 2013) (See Chart 5)

- A youth's age at the time of the referral is also important to analyze so that programs can be targeted for particular age groups. Black youth tend to be over-represented at younger ages in the juvenile justice system, but the majority of Black youth in Boone County were referred between the ages of 15 and 16. Age 14 shows the most over-representation of Black youth.



References:

- Coleman, A. (2011). Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): A historical and contemporary perspective. In N. Parsons-Pollard (Ed.), *Disproportionate Minority Contact: Current issues and policies* (pp. 19-33). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
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